



Page 8

Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Several Midwestern cities are going to be counted again like it's 2020

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

Four years after the last census, almost a dozen small communities in the Midwest are going to be counted again in hopes of getting a new grocery store or more state funding to build roads, fire stations and parks.

Eleven small cities in Illinois and Iowa are the only municipalities so far to have signed agreements with the U.S. Census Bureau for a second count of their residents in 2024 and 2025, in a repeat of what happened during the 2020 census. The first year in which the special censuses can be conducted is 2024.

With one exception, city officials don't think the numbers from the original count were inaccurate. It's just that their populations have grown so fast in three years that officials believe they are leaving state funding for roads and other items on the table by not adding the extra growth to their population totals.



The briefcase of a census taker is seen as she knocks on the door of a residence, Aug. 11, 2020, in Winter Park, Fla.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press
Page 2





LUNCH SPECIALS

AVAILABLE EVERYDAY // 12PM - 3PM

STARTING AT ONLY **\$9**

*excludes service charge

LOCATED IN
PASEO HERENCIA MALL
ACROSS THE HOLIDAY INN HOTEL

1/2 PRICE HAPPY HOUR
ON ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES



Monday - Friday 12PM - 8PM

"HIDDEN GEM IN PALM BEACH"

LOCATED ACROSS THE HILTON CASINO AND RESORT IN THE VILLAGE MALL

Reservations Open Table



Papillon
RESTAURANT

LIVE MUSIC



FRENCH-CARIBBEAN

Several Midwestern cities are going to be counted again like it's 2020

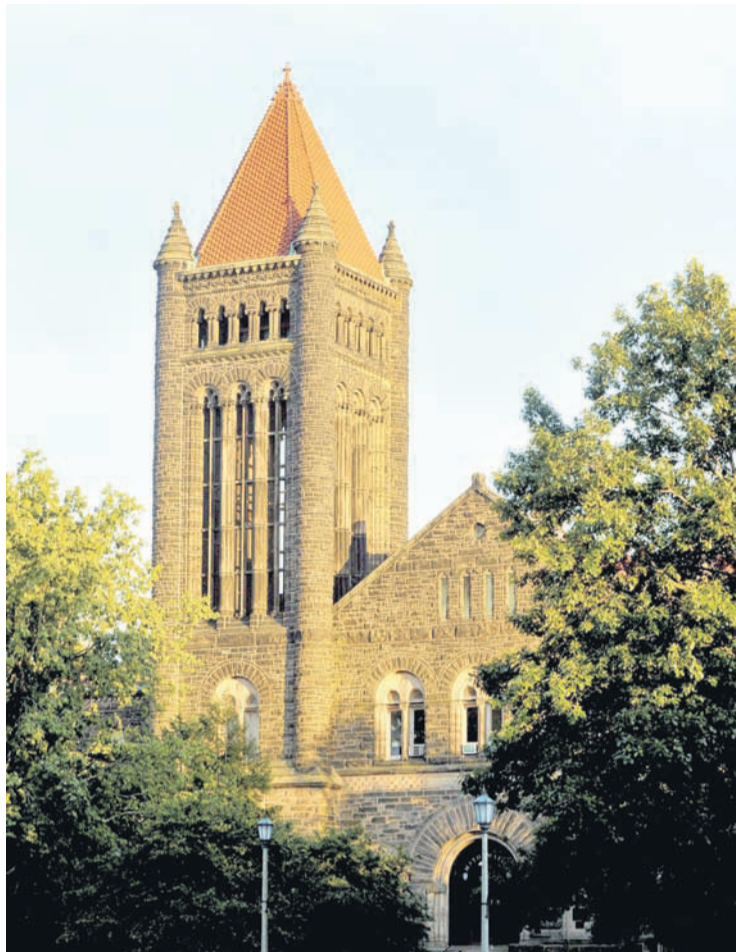
Continued from Front

Some also believe that new results from a second count will open up their community to new businesses by showing they have crossed a population threshold.

"We anticipate a significant increase in population from the special census, particularly given that we have had a record building-permit year," said Marketa Oliver, city administrator for Bondurant, Iowa, a city of more than 8,700 residents in mid-2022, the last year figures are available, which is an 18% increase over the count in 2020.

Officials in Norwalk, Iowa, hope the second count shows the city has surpassed 15,000 people, since that is the threshold typically used as a rule of thumb in commercial real estate for when a community can support a business like a supermarket. "Once a city hits 15,000, the market opens up tremendously," said Luke Nelson, Norwalk's city manager.

Unlike the 2020 census, the second counts won't be used for redrawing political districts or determining how many congressional seats each state gets. Instead, they will be used to determine how much the communities will get in state funding that often is calculated by population size. Communities losing population in the past three years have nothing to worry about — their declin-



The bell tower at Altgeld Hall, one of the oldest buildings on the University of Illinois' Urbana-Champaign campus, is seen, June 9, 2010, in Urbana, Ill.

Associated Press

ing numbers won't catch up with them until after the 2030 census.

Local, state and tribal governments across the U.S. have until May 2027 to ask for a special census from the Census Bureau. While the tab for the 2020 head count was picked up by the federal government, the local municipalities have to foot the bill for their special censuses. The cost isn't cheap, rang-

ing from just over \$370,000 to almost \$500,000 for the communities.

Some communities have already forged ahead with their own do-it-yourself recounts, unwilling to pay the price tag for a bureau-organized special census. Others have challenged their numbers with the Census Bureau and gotten small wins.

The cities in Iowa paying for a Census Bureau-run second

count — Altoona, Bondurant, Grimes, Johnston, Norwalk, Pleasant Hill and Waukee — are fast-growing suburbs of Des Moines. The reason special censuses are so popular in Iowa is because the state uses the once-a-decade head count as the official population when it comes to funding based on population size, said Gary Krob, coordinator for the State Data Center at the State Library of Iowa. Other states between censuses use annual population estimates for calculating how much funding local governments should get each year. "That means the 2020 census population is currently the official count for every city and county in Iowa," Krob said. "The only way to adjust your population count between now and 2030 is to conduct a special census with the Census Bureau and then have this new count certified by the Iowa Secretary of State." The geography of the Illinois cities and their reasons for seeking a second count — McDonough, Pingree Grove, Urbana and Warrenville — are a little more scattershot than in Iowa.

Officials in Warrenville, a suburb of Chicago with more than 13,500 residents in 2020, believe they can get an extra \$1.2 million annually in federal and state funding, based on the calculation that they have added almost 1,000 new residents from several new housing developments.

The Village of Pingree Grove outside Chicago has experienced rapid growth, doubling from more than 4,500 residents in 2010 to more than 10,300 residents in 2020. Village officials believe there will be 12,300 residents in 2024, so the special census is needed to bring in an increased share of state revenues, "versus waiting another six years for the 2030 Census," said Laura Ortega, the village clerk.

University of Illinois students make up about half the population of the college town of Urbana and city officials maintain the 2020 census missed a lot of them.

During the 2020 census, places with large numbers of students emptied out as campuses shut down in-person classes because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Urbana's expected modest population gain for the 2020 census ended up being a 7% decrease from the 2010 head count, with the largest decreases in student neighborhoods near campus, Mayor Diane Marlin said in an email.

The uncounted students are costing the city at least \$500,000 to \$750,000 annually in missing state and federal funding, the mayor said. The 2024 count in Urbana will be limited to neighborhoods that saw the biggest decreases. "If we recapture our population through a more accurate count, we recapture lost revenue," Marlin said. □



Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo waits for a television interview at the Capitol in Washington on Nov. 7, 2023.

Associated Press

By **MATTHEW LEE**
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration has

once again renewed taxpayer-funded protection for former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and

U.S. again renews protection for former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and top aide over Iran threats

one of his top aides, who have been the target of persistent threats from Iran. The State Department notified Congress late last month that the threats against Pompeo and Trump administration Iran envoy Brian Hook remain "serious and credible" and continue to warrant government-provided security details. The notifications are dated Dec. 19 but were not transmitted to Congress until Dec. 22. They were obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Tensions in the Middle East

have soared since the outbreak of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza and escalated further Wednesday after dozens of people were killed in blasts in Iran at a memorial service for Iran Revolutionary Guard commander Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on Jan. 3, 2020.

Pompeo and Hook were the public faces of the U.S. "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran after former President Donald Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018.

And Iran has blamed both for the killing of Soleimani.

The notifications to Congress, signed by Deputy Secretary of State for Management Richard Verma, marked the 16th time the State Department has extended protection to Hook since he left office in January 2021 and the 13th time it has been extended to Pompeo.

The discrepancy arises because Pompeo, as a former Cabinet secretary, automatically had government security for several months after leaving office. □

FBI calls bomb threats that led to brief lockdowns and evacuations of some state capitols a hoax

By REBECCA REYNOLDS
Associated Press

A bomb threat emailed to officials in several states early Wednesday briefly disrupted government affairs and prompted some state capitol evacuations, but no explosives were found and federal officials quickly dismissed the threats as a hoax.

The threats follow a spate of false reports of shootings at the homes of public officials in recent days.

Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi and Montana were among the states that evacuated statehouse offices or buildings.

The FBI said it was aware of numerous hoax bomb threats at state Capitol buildings, but had "no information to indicate a specific and credible threat." The bureau said it was working with state, local and federal law enforcement to gather, share and act on information.

"The FBI takes hoax threats



Traffic rolls past the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson, Miss., as Capitol Police respond to a bomb threat within the building, Wednesday mornin, Jan. 3, 2024.

very seriously because it puts innocent people at risk," it said in a statement. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said on X that the Capitol was evacuated while state police investigated a threat received by the Secretary of State's

Office. Lawmakers were elsewhere for ethics training, but Secretary of State spokeswoman Michon Lindstrom said some candidate filings were disrupted. The "mass email" warned of multiple explosives that would go off in a few hours.

Public safety officials locked down the Mississippi Capitol on the second day of the legislative session and the state Senate delayed its morning meeting. The building was evacuated and bomb-sniffing dogs circled before an all-clear

Associated Press

was given.

"This is an ongoing investigation and there is no further threat to the Capitol or surrounding buildings," said Bailey Martin, a spokesperson for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. The closures were brief and disruptions minimal in most states.

Montana's Capitol building reopened within two hours after a sweep of the building was completed and the threat was found not to be credible, said Megan Grotzke, spokesperson for the Department of Administration.

In Minnesota, oral arguments at the state Supreme Court inside the Capitol were interrupted, but were moved to other courtrooms in the Minnesota Judicial Center, said Kyle Christopher, a spokesperson for the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

Other states including Wyoming, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri and Maryland received threats, but didn't close. □

U.S. intel confident militant groups used largest Gaza hospital in campaign against Israel: AP source

By ZEKE MILLER
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. is "confident" that Palestinian militant groups used Gaza's largest hospital to hold "at least a few" hostages seized during their bloody Oct. 7, 2023, attack and to house command infrastructure, an American intelligence assessment declassified Tuesday and shared by a U.S. official found.

The assessment offers the firmest U.S. support for Israeli claims about the Shifa hospital complex, which was raided by Israeli forces in November in an operation decried by global humanitarian organizations and some members of President Joe Biden's party. Yet

the information released doesn't fully back some of Israel's most significant allegations that the hospital served as the central node for activities by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The U.S. official shared the assessment on the condition of anonymity.

"The U.S. Intelligence Community is confident in its judgment on this topic and has independently corroborated information on HAMAS and PIJ's use of the hospital complex for a variety of purposes related to its campaign against Israel," the assessment states. It continues that it believes the groups "used the al-Shifa hospital complex and sites beneath it to house command infrastructure, exercise certain command

and control activities, store some weapons, and hold at least a few hostages."

The U.S. believes that Hamas members evacuated days before Israel raided the complex on Nov. 15 and that they destroyed sensitive documents and electronics before Israeli troops entered the facility. U.S. officials had previously pointed to classified intelligence, obtained independently from the Israelis, to offer support for Israel's raid. "I can confirm for you that we have information that Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad use some hospitals in the Gaza Strip, including al-Shifa, and tunnels underneath them to conceal and to support their military operations and to hold hostages,"

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters a day before Israel entered the hospital. Gaza's hospitals have played a central role in the dueling narratives surrounding the war that the

Hamas-run Health Ministry says has killed 22,100 people though it does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. Hospitals enjoy special protected status under the international laws of war. □



Israeli soldiers show the media an underground tunnel found underneath Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, Nov. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

New York City evicts vendors from Brooklyn Bridge, ending a bustling tourist market to ease crowding

By **JAKE OFFENHARTZ**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Scores of sellers that once peddled cheap souvenirs to tourists atop the Brooklyn Bridge were evicted Wednesday under a new city rule that prohibits vending on the famed crossing.

The ban is aimed at easing congestion on the bridge's heavily-trafficked pedestrian walkway, which has seen a spike in both visitors and tabletop businesses offering items like New York-branded hats and keychains.

As crowds flocked to the bridge over the holiday season, the situation turned dangerous, according to New York City Mayor Eric Adams. He pointed to videos that showed pedestrians leaping from the pedestrian promenade onto a bike lane several feet below in order to bypass a human traffic jam.

"It's not only a sanitary issue, it's a public safety issue," Adams said.

"People would've trampled over each other. We need order in this city. That is one of our major landmarks."

Police officers were stationed in pairs Wednesday along the mile-long span, as a group of disgruntled vendors stood at the Man-



Notices are taped up on the pedestrian walkway of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024.

hattan entrance to the bridge, glumly facing their former marketplace. Along the bridge's trusses, city employees hung signs reading: "No vending allowed." Kendall Otway, a 67-year-old vendor, said he began selling merchandise on the bridge last year, working with a growing group of asylum seekers who have recently arrived in New York City from Ecuador and Senegal.

"Wasn't it the mayor who said they should come

here and work?" Otway said, adding that the vendors had become "a staple of New York City now."

The new rules prevent any "peddler, vendor, hawker, or huckster" from selling merchandise or providing a service on any of the city's bridges or elevated walkways — though none have close to as many vendors as the 140-year-old Brooklyn Bridge.

In recent months, the number of tables on the East River crossing offering

phone cases and knock-off Yankees caps had multiplied. Other entrepreneurs had set up rotating selfie platforms that allow tourists to take panoramic videos of the New York Harbor.

"The tourists liked the vendors, they always seemed to have business," said Robert Fernandez, a Brooklyn resident who frequently walks the bridge. Still, he said it was "much easier" to cross the bridge on Wednesday without the "choke points" caused by

the vendors.

Some sellers said they planned to wait a few weeks for the fuss to die down before trying to come back. Others set up tables near City Hall, across from the bridge, hoping to unload their remaining wares away from the high-profile enforcement zone.

MD Rahman, who has sold hot dogs and pretzels out of a cart on the bridge for 15 years, said he had initially planned to defy the city's rules. But when he saw officers fanned out across the bridge, he decided not to take the risk.

Rahman said he understands the need to crack down on illicit vendors. But he criticized the ban as overly broad, since it also applies to veteran sellers, like himself, who hold mobile vending licenses.

"To punish everyone, it's crazy. I don't know what is going to happen to my family now," he said.

On Wednesday afternoon, despite the absence of vendors, a group of pedestrians found themselves stuck in foot-traffic beneath the bridge's stone arches. The hold-up soon became clear: a line of tourists had stopped to take photographs of the "No vending" signs. □

Associated Press



Protesters march in the street as lightning flashes in the distance in Ferguson, Mo., Aug. 20, 2014, following the shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teen, in the St. Louis suburb on Aug. 9, 2014.

Associated Press

By **JIM SALTER**

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A Missouri city will pay nearly \$3 million to settle a lawsuit accusing it and six other St. Louis suburbs of violating the consti-

tutional rights of residents by jailing them and forcing them to pay fines and fees amounting to millions of dollars, often for minor traffic violations.

The \$2.9 million settlement

'Debtor's prison' lawsuit filed against St. Louis suburb resolved with \$2.9 million settlement

with the city of Florissant was approved by a federal judge on Tuesday and announced Wednesday by ArchCity Defenders, a St. Louis-based public interest law firm.

The class-action lawsuit was filed in 2016.

Florissant was among several St. Louis County cities whose policing and court practices were scrutinized after the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson. Brown, a Black 18-year-old, was killed by white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9, 2014.

Wilson was not charged, but the shooting led to months of protests and prompted a Department of Justice investigation. The federal agency in 2015 accused Ferguson of racially biased policing and using excessive fines and court fees. A year later, Ferguson and the Justice Department reached an agreement that required sweeping reforms.

Funds from the Florissant settlement will be distributed among more than 85,000 people who were jailed or fined between Oct. 31, 2011, and Feb. 1,

2023. The settlement requires Florissant to forgive unpaid fees from traffic violations between Oct. 31, 2011, and Dec. 31, 2019, and to take other steps, including ensuring the right to an attorney for anyone brought before a municipal judge.

The Associated Press left telephone messages with the Florissant mayor's office. Florissant, with 52,000 residents, is the largest city in St. Louis County.

Allison Nelson, now 32, said she was jailed twice in Florissant because she couldn't afford to pay traffic fines. □

Extreme cold grips Nordic countries, Russia as floods hit western Europe

By JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Europe experienced stark weather contrasts on Wednesday, with extreme cold and snowstorms disrupting transportation and closing schools in Scandinavia while strong winds and heavy rain in western Europe caused flooding and at least one death.

Temperatures fell below minus 40 degrees Celsius (minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Nordic region for a second day in a row Wednesday. In Kivikkjokk-Årrenjarka in Swedish Lapland, the mercury dropped to minus 43.6 C (minus 46.5 F), the lowest January temperature recorded in Sweden in 25 years, Sweden's TT news agency reported.

Extremely cold temperatures, snow and gale-force winds disrupted transportation throughout the Nordic region, with several bridges closed and some train and ferry services suspended. Several schools in Scandinavia were closed.

Police across most of Denmark urged motorists to



A general view after heavy snowfall in Aarhus, Denmark, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

avoid unnecessary trips as wind and snow battered the northern and western parts of the country.

The wave of cold air from Siberia and the Arctic region has also swept down over western Russia, with temperatures in Moscow and other areas plummeting to

minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 F), well below the average temperature for early January.

Officials in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other areas have issued orange weather warnings, cautioning residents against possible health risks.

Mild but wet and windy conditions prevailed further south, where a storm wreaked havoc in parts of western Europe.

In Britain, a driver died after a tree fell on his car in western England. Gloucestershire Police said the man died in the incident near

the town of Kemble on Tuesday afternoon.

The storm, which has been named Henk by the official weather services of Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands, has caused power cuts, transport troubles, property damage and disruption across the U.K.

More than 300 flood warnings were in place across England and Wales on Wednesday, while 10,000 homes remained without power. A severe flood alert, meaning a danger to life, was announced for the River Nene in Northampton in central England. Several residents were evacuated from houseboats and caravans at the nearby Billing Aquadrome.

The U.K.'s rail network was hit by flooding and power cuts, with many operators reporting ongoing issues for the Wednesday morning commute into work.

The strongest gales in the U.K. were recorded on the Isle of Wight, just off the coast in southern England, where wind speeds reached 94 miles per hour (151 kilometers per hour). □

Israel's Supreme Court delays activation of law that makes it harder to remove Netanyahu from office

By TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A law that would make it harder to remove Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from office must go into effect only after the next parliamentary elections, the country's Supreme Court ruled Wednesday, saying the legislation was clearly crafted for personal reasons. Israeli legislators passed the law last year as part of the government's contentious legal overhaul plan, which sparked widespread opposition and tore open deep divisions in society. Critics said the law was designed to protect Netanyahu from being deemed unfit to rule over claims of a conflict of interest. He had

been working to reshape the justice system while on trial for alleged corruption.

"The personal affairs of the sitting prime minister were not just the motive for legislating the amendment but also the dominant justification for its legislation at the time it was enacted," wrote outgoing Chief Justice Esther Hayut. "The amendment's promoters wanted the amendment to enter into force immediately and that it apply to the sitting prime minister." The next parliamentary elections are expected in 2026 but could be held before then, meaning Netanyahu is in theory exposed until then to being deemed unfit to serve. However, Israel's attorney general, who his-

torically has had the authority to make that call, hasn't publicly indicated she would. While the court did not outright strike down the law, the ruling in a 6-5 vote deepens a divide that lingers between overhaul supporters and those who view the court as a bulwark defending Israel's democratic fundamentals.

The Movement for Quality Government in Israel, an advocacy group that petitioned against the law, welcomed the ruling and said the prime minister "cannot create a golden cage for himself" while he is on trial. "The court in its decision restored the logic that disappeared when this despicable law was enacted," said the group's chairman, Eliad

Shraga. The ruling comes days after the court overturned the first major piece of the overhaul in a blow to Netanyahu's government. The government has said

the legal changes were meant to restore power to elected officials, but critics said they would upend Israel's delicate system of checks and balances. □



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the weekly cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem, Dec. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

Iran says at least 103 were killed in blasts at a ceremony honoring slain general

By **JON GAMBRELL**
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Two bombs exploded and killed at least 103 people Wednesday at a commemoration for a prominent Iranian general slain by the U.S. in a 2020 drone strike, Iranian officials said, as the Middle East remains on edge over Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza. No one immediately claimed responsibility for what appeared to be the deadliest militant attack to target Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran's leaders vowed to punish those responsible for the blasts, which wounded at least 211 people.

The blasts were minutes apart and shook the city of Kerman, about 820 kilometers (510 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran. The second blast sprayed shrapnel into a screaming crowd fleeing the first explosion.

The gathering marked the fourth anniversary of the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force, in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq. The explosions occurred near his grave site as long lines of people gathered for the event.

Iranian state television and officials described the attacks as bombings, without



Injured people get aid after an explosion in Kerman, Iran, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

immediately giving clear details of what happened. The attacks came a day after a deputy head of the Palestinian militant group Hamas was killed in a suspected Israeli strike in Beirut.

The first bomb Wednesday was detonated around 3 p.m., and the other went off some 20 minutes later, the Iranian interior minister, Ahmad Vahidi, told state television. He said the second blast killed and wounded the most people. Images and video shared on social media appeared to correspond with the ac-

counts of officials, who said the first blast happened about 700 meters (765 yards) from Soleimani's grave in the Kerman Martyrs Cemetery near a parking lot. The crowd then rushed west along Shohada Street, where the second blast struck about 1 kilometer (0.62 miles) from the grave.

A delayed second explosion is often used by militants to inflict more casualties by targeting emergency personnel responding to an attack. Iranian state TV and state-run IRNA news agency quoted emergen-

cy officials for the casualty figures. Authorities said Thursday would be a national day of mourning.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the attackers will face "a harsh response," though he didn't name any possible suspect. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi added: "Undoubtedly, the perpetrators and leaders of this cowardly act will soon be identified and punished." Iran has multiple foes who could be behind the assault, including exile groups, militant organizations and state actors.

While Israel has carried out attacks in Iran over its nuclear program, it has conducted targeted assassinations, not mass casualty bombings. A U.S. State Department spokesman, Matthew Miller, said American officials had "no reason" to believe Israel was involved in Wednesday's attack in Iran.

Sunni extremist groups including the Islamic State group have conducted large-scale attacks in the past that killed civilians in Shiite-majority Iran, though not in relatively peaceful Kerman.

Iran also has seen mass protests in recent years, including those over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in 2022. The country also has been targeted by exile groups in attacks dating back to the turmoil surrounding its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran itself has been arming militant groups over the decades, including Hamas, the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi rebels. As Israel wages its devastating war in Gaza after Hamas' Oct. 7 attacks that killed 1,200 people, both Hezbollah and the Houthis have launched attacks targeting Israel that they say come on behalf of the Palestinians. □

Puerto Rico official says governor's office must stop using slogan that looks like electioneering



Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Pierluisi gives a press conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The Puerto Rico governor's office must stop using the slogan "Making things happen" to promote the administration's work because it looks like election campaigning, election officials said Wednesday.

The phrase can no longer appear on ads launched with public money by the administration of Gov. Pedro Pierluisi, who is seeking a second term in an election this year. The opposition Popular Democratic

Party has challenged the administration's use of the phrase.

Walter Vélez, who oversees the election comptroller's office, told reporters that the slogan could allude to achievements and goals, both of which are barred under laws restricting the use of public funds for election-related advertising. Sheila Angleró, a spokeswoman for Pierluisi, said the governor's office is evaluating the decision.

A lawsuit filed in October

last year by the Popular Democratic Party alleges that more than \$3 million in public funds have been used to promote the slogan, and the case is pending in court.

Jesús Manuel Ortiz, the party's president, said in a statement that it's regrettable the slogan wasn't struck down until this year, adding that the funds should not be used "to develop campaigns to highlight anyone's image." □

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drunk after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of ir-

itation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup



with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your

blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis. □

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.
*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actu-

ally referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Gov-

ernor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower. The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at

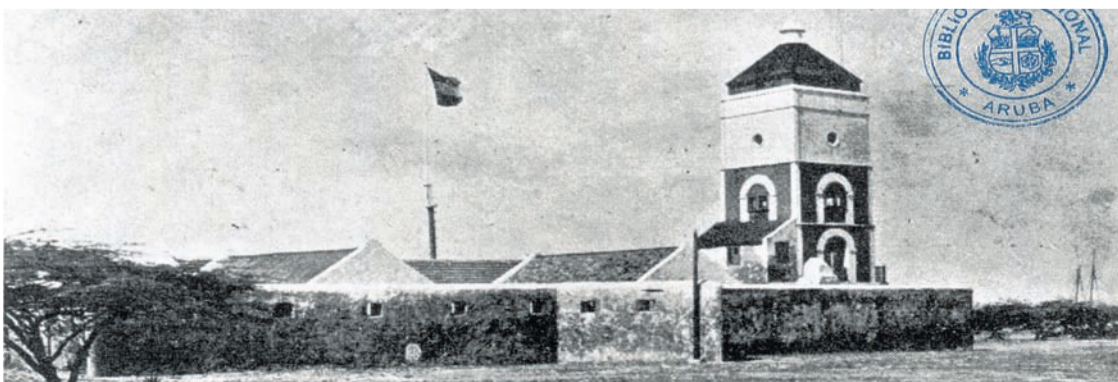


constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is. Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a

rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.



Free Sangria
WITH THIS COUPON
ACROBATIC
LIVE SHOW
Wed & Fri - 7pm-9pm

SHOW TICKETS
\$35 p/p
www.iccaua.com
Reservations:
+297 744 4059

Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want some-



thing special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night.

The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in.

The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are



set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too”. What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Chef’s Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef’s secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional ‘cunucu’ house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dining experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff.

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Make your reservation today at: info@papillonaruba.com

or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400

Open Daily: 5pm – 10.00pm – Early Bird from 5pm – 7pm

For all menus and specials visit the website: www.papillonaruba.com.



Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all qualified Club members.

BONUS
B I N G O
THURSDAY!

Bonus 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!
 \$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes
SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME
 Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111
 Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Aruba Tours & Adventures | Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe Behind The Mask | Juan Valdez Café | Baskin-Robbins The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market | M8 Boutique Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | Curated Lab



Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Renaissance Ocean Suites!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors Mr. Larry & Mrs. Laura Peterson from Florida, United States

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Renaissance Ocean Suites bestowed the Emerald Ambassador certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were: "Friends we have made over the



years"
 Aruba's restaurants
 Aruba's casinos
 Aruba's shopping
 Aruba's beaches.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any oth-



er materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Bernadette Daniels.

She wrote to us saying:

"Aruba to me is my home away from home. It's the most special place in the world to me. My name is Bernadette Daniels and I am from Peekskill, New York. I have been coming to Aruba since 1987, every August for 2 weeks.

It's the place where I feel the happiest. You can't ask for more perfect weather, fabulous restaurants but most important are the people that live in Aruba. They are the most friendliest, caring people. We met a family in 1988, Omaira and her husband, Dennis Silva and their three young children.

Omaira was born in Aruba (also a local artist in Aruba) and Dennis in Trinidad. We have continued the friendship all these years and they are now not just friends but

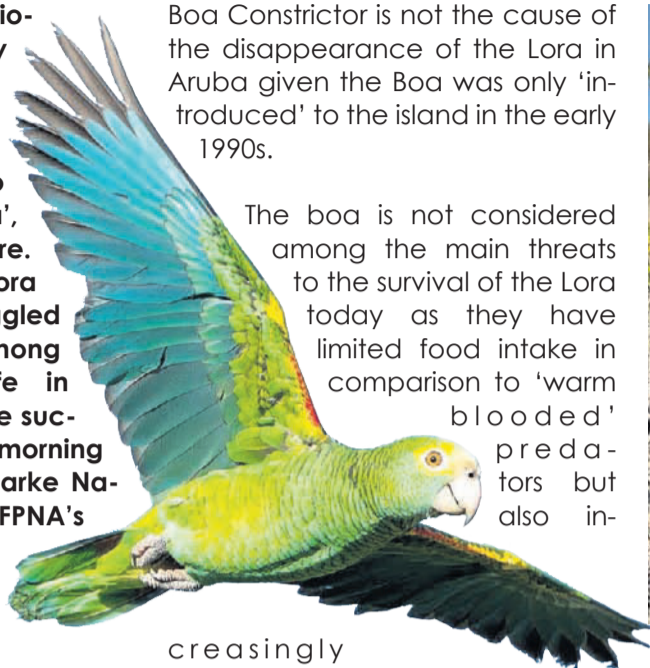


are considered family. Each and every trip to Aruba is more special than the next. We come every August for 2 weeks but this year we came again in December to celebrate my 60th Birthday! It's been the most amazing 60th. Aruba will always have my heart!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

The first Yellow-Shouldered Amazon take free flight into aruba's nature

Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba (FPNA) today announced the reintroduction of the locally extinct yellow-shouldered amazon, also known locally as 'Lora', back into Aruba's nature. Out of the 25 surviving Lora that were illegally smuggled by sea into Aruba among other poached wildlife in 2022, the first 9 Lora were successfully released this morning into Aruba's nature in Parke Nacional Arikok, as part of FPNA's reintroduction plan.



Boa Constrictor is not the cause of the disappearance of the Lora in Aruba given the Boa was only 'introduced' to the island in the early 1990s.

The boa is not considered among the main threats to the survival of the Lora today as they have limited food intake in comparison to 'warm blooded' predators but also in-

creasingly occur in urbanized areas. Another significant threat that caused the extinction of the Lora is the disappearance of their habitat due to deforestation for development.

FPNA is expected to release the remaining Lora during two other 'release events' over the course of the coming 2 weeks. The reintroduction of the Lora is part of FPNA's Species Conservation & Reintroduction Program, which aims at establishing a self-sustaining wild population in Aruba over the next decades.

creasingly occur in urbanized areas. Another significant threat that caused the extinction of the Lora is the disappearance of their habitat due to deforestation for development.

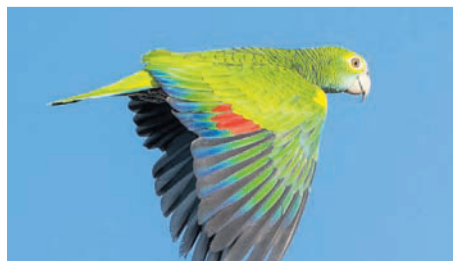
Why is the reintroduction of the Lora important?

The Lora played a distinctive ecological function for the island, particularly in seed dispersal which contributed to the proliferation of specific native plants and trees, that in turn, supported a broader range of wildlife. Therefore, the reintroduction of the Lora is not only important, but it is necessary as it benefits local habitats, enhances biodiversity, and contributes to the overall health of the different ecosystems of Aruba. FPNA's goal is to a self-sustaining Lora population in Aruba, by reintroducing and restoring the Lora's wild population for future generations.

It is important to keep in mind that the release of the 25 surviving Lora this year is only the beginning and will require annual supplementation to the wild population before it becomes large enough to be self-sustaining. Currently the Lora are 1 and a half years old and will only start reproducing at approximately 7 years of age. As such, it will take decades before a self-sustaining population can be seen in Aruba.

How to mitigate threats to the newly introduced Lora population

To achieve the goal of a self-sustaining population in Aruba, FPNA



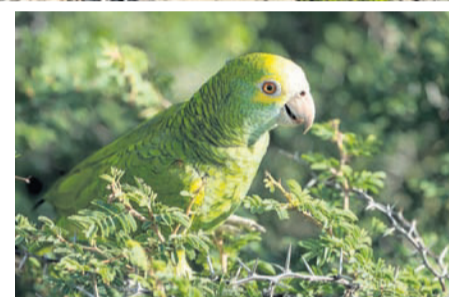
Why did the Lora go extinct in Aruba?

The Lora (*Amazona barbadensis*) has been a locally extirpated species in Aruba for over half a century yet continues to hold a significant place in the island's heritage and in the hearts of the community. A parrot species that is known for being highly social and intelligent and that once graced many locals with its magnificent presence roaming freely in Aruba's nature, until they went extinct in 1947. Populations of this species continue to exist in isolated places on Bonaire and Curaçao, in addition to northern parts of Venezuela and the Venezuelan islands of Margarita and La Blanquilla. The Lora has been assessed for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2021 but current estimates the total wild population to be less than 10,000 individuals. For Aruba specifically, the Lora is protected by law under the Nature Ordinance (AB 1995 no. 2, Art. 4 / AB 2017 no. 48).

To date, there are many threats to the Lora populations, of which most are of human origin (Birdlife International 2017, Silvius 1991). For Aruba in particular, the Lora was extirpated because of poaching for pet trade or killed for being considered an agricultural pest (Voous 1983). In addition to human incurred threats, predators such as domestic cats and rats also pose a big threat to the survival of the Loras. Contrary to popular belief, the



will be taking necessary conservation actions - including scientific research and monitoring, raising awareness, driving education and community engagement - while continuing to push for policy development and enforcement to protect the Lora alongside other native bird species.



impact on the Lora.

How can you help?

It takes a village to do nature conservation, and doing it right takes time and requires collaboration with the entire community of Aruba.

FPNA would like to ask residents and visitors to Aruba to help us with monitoring the tagged Lora and keep their eyes and ears open and report any sightings via WhatsApp to FPNA's Wildlife Hotline at +297 592 4476 or email us at info@arubanationalpark.org. If a Lora is sighted, please provide the information about the location - including a GPS location of where the Lora was seen - and how many were observed. Do not interfere with the Lora. Be respectful, keep your distance and keep cats and dogs at bay, do not feed or try to capture them - that would violate the law protecting this species.

FPNA, its valued partners and volunteers will actively be monitoring the tagged Lora for the coming period and values the support of the community in reporting any sightings.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to every single associate of Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba who contributed to the reintroduction of the Lora to Aruba today, and to all local partners and international partners World Parrot Trust and Stichting Vogelpark AviFauna for coming to Aruba for this most important and emotional day. □

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was of-

ficially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also

known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found



ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding

area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □



CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**



ACROSS 44 Dancer's attire

1 "Very funny!"

5 Seasoned stew

11 Homecoming attendee

12 Familiar with

13 District

14 Life list maintainer

15 Soda fountain order

17 Cry of insight

18 Trot and canter

22 Propeller type

24 As scheduled

25 Oahu souvenir

26 Geologic period

27 Conform

30 Takes steps

32 Caruso, for one

33 Greek vowel

34 Heed

38 Digestion aid

41 First father

42 Tickles

43 Royal address

DOWN

1 Mist

2 Sleep like —

3 European language

4 Don of "Cocoon"

5 Yokel

6 Crumbly cheese

7 European language

8 Unmatched

9 Western Indian

10 Craggy hill

16 Unrefined

19 European language

20 Ankara native

21 Vast expanses

22 Thin board

23 Yield

28 European language

29 Hot dish holder

30 Soaked

31 Comfortable

35 Pert talk

36 Poi source

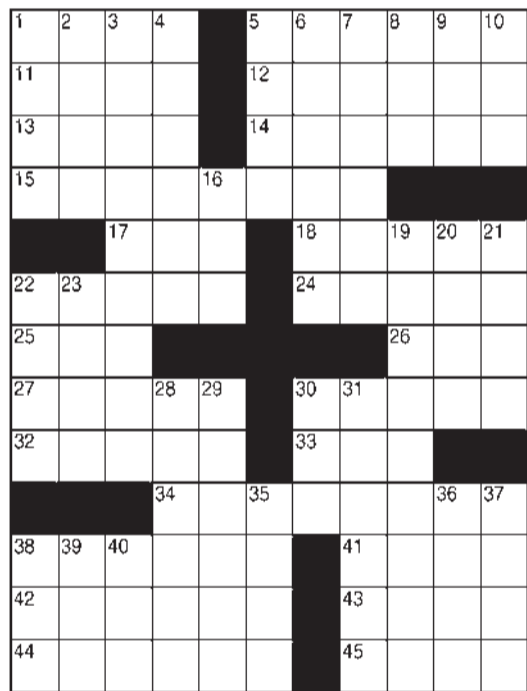
37 Sign of a sort

38 Plopped down

39 French friend

40 Tote

Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

B XGOS SUQV MUW VGMF
XQEBDVQ IQ IBV WIQ BMVHQQ
WU VULQWIGMF; IQ VGMFV
XQEBDVQ IQ IBV B VUMF.

— EIGMQVQ JOUYQOX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE ARE EACH OTHER'S HARVEST; WE ARE EACH OTHER'S BUSINESS; WE ARE EACH OTHER'S MAGNITUDE AND BOND.
— GWENDOLYN BROOKS

Classifieds

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm Beach
1 BR 1 1/2 bath wk 51 room # 1105
With 12 weeks remaining on the contract
Price :\$ 6000
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

Ruby wespunt
5 min drive to the ocean
3 BR 3 bath with apartment
Pool
Price :\$640 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

La Cabana beach and casino

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 51 room # 329 A
Thursday check in
Price :\$ 9 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

Fixer upper
Saliña serka
3 Bedroom 2 bath
With apartment
Price :\$325 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites

Eagle beach
1 BR Wk 52 room # 1235
Price : \$10 K
2 BR WK 51/52 room #1202
Price : 75 K both weeks
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Casa Del Mar 2BR/2B:

Week 2/Unit1113 (21k);
Week 5/Unit1315 (23k);
Week 8/Unit1113 (19k);
Week 8/Unit1409 (19k);
Week 10/Unit1207 (19k);
Week 13/Unit1509 (14k); and,
Week 14/Unit1308 (14k).
CDMOwner@gmail.com
US(Call/Text): (860)992-3890

Divi Village golf

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 50 room #2258
24 weeks remaining \$ 10 K
2 BR WK 51 room #2205/2206
23 weeks remaining \$ 16 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



Millennial Money: I saved \$800 in 5 months by eating more plants

By **ALANA BENSON of NerdWallet**

I tried going vegetarian once when I was in high school. My best friend was a vegetarian, and I was curious. I lasted only about four days. My downfall: a buffalo chicken sandwich. Since that ill-fated attempt, I've never tried to curb my meat consumption. It's just too dang tasty. But in 2022, a family member was diagnosed with a life-threatening disease. In addition to taking new medications, they adopted a strict whole-food, plant-based diet in the hopes that it would improve their health. □



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@arubatoday

Classifieds

Aruba Beach Club
Eagle beach
1 BR Deluxe week 51 room # 206
Price : \$ 12 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf
Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 52 room # 4116
Eagle with 28 weeks remaining
Ground floor
Price :\$ 12 K
Call : 011-297 -630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott destination points
\$6 per points
Call : 011 -297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village
Eagle beach
Studio WK # 5 room # 8105
Building C with elevator
1 st floor
13 weeks remaining
Price :7 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle resort
Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 8 room # 4561
4 th floor pool /ocean view
Price :\$9 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

La Quinta beach resort
Eagle beach
Town house
2 BR WK 9 room # 212
Price :\$12 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites
Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 12 room # 1328
Price : \$7 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Casa Del Mar
Eagle beach
2 BR WK 12 room # 1505
Price : \$ 18 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village golf
1 BR WK #9 room. #2118
Studio WK # 9 room # 2117
Price 1 BR :\$9 K studio \$ 7 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf
Eagle beach
Studio week # 3 room # 7306
18 weeks remaining on the contract
Price : \$ 7 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle resort
Eagle beach
2 BR WK # 9,10,11,12
Room # 2544
2sd floor south tower end unit
Overlook water fall pool
Price :\$ 18 K each
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi village Golf
Eagle beach
2 BR WK # 3 room # 2317/2318
26 weeks remaining
Price : \$18 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi village Golf
Eagle beach
1 BR 2 bath week 11 room # 2215
Birdie 3
22 weeks remaining
Price : \$9 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Dutch village
Barcelo resort
Palm beach
All inclusive
3 BR week 6 and 7
Price : \$ 80 K both weeks
1 BR Deluxe WK 8 \$ 15 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
with apartment
Cumana 5 min drive from airport
10 min to beach
2 Bedroom 2 Bath with apartment plus
3 apartment with pool
Price :\$ 630 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf
Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 50 /51 room #2357
32/23 weeks remaining
\$12 K each
1 BR WK # 52/01 room # 2357
23/26 weeks remaining
\$12 K each
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 2 room # 114
3 full accelerated weeks
Price :\$4 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Caribbean palm village
Deeded property
1 BR WK # 3 and 4 room # B 104
Price :\$7 K each
2 BR WK # 5 room B 206
Price : \$ 10 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi village Golf
Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 2 room # 4102
22 weeks remain \$ 9 K
Studio week # 3 room # 4205
22 weeks remaining \$ 8 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance ocean suites
Private islands
1 BR WK # 12 room # 2521
Pool/ Ocean view
Price :\$ 9 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Halley time travel Aruba
To all time share members
That want to sell your Time -Share
In Aruba contact the experts
37 years of doing honest business
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance ocean suites
Private islands
1 BR WK 51 room # 2136 \$10 K
1 BR WK 51 room # 2530 \$10 K
1 BR WK 51 and 52 room # 2314
Price : \$ 20 K both units
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix
Palm Beach
Penthouse
2 BR week 1 room # 672
23 weeks remaining
Price:\$35 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi village golf
Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 51 and 52 room # 2257
20 weeks remaining on each
Price : \$12 K each
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi village golf
Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 52 room # 4116
28 weeks remaining
Price : \$ 12 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village
Eagle beach
Studio WK # 01 room # 8201
19 weeks remaining
Price :\$8 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix
Palm Beach
Studio week 49/50 room # 304
Ocean front villas
26 weeks remaining on each
Price : \$7K each
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix
Palm Beach
One Bedroom Week 52 room # 401
24 weeks remaining
Price :\$10K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix
Palm Beach
1 BR week 52 room # 953
1 BR week 01 room # 654
186,000 points
Price :\$ 60 K both weeks
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
Fixer upper Bubali
5 min from eagle beach
2 Bedroom 2 bath , 2 bedroom
1 bath 3 bedroom 1 bath and a studio on a lease land
1300 m2 price:\$500K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Paradera: Tel. 588 6638
Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

Women in Difficulties

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook



facebook.com/arubatoday/

Jessica Chastain, Peter Sarsgaard anchor 'Memory,' a thorny drama with a tender heart

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Pain and trauma permeate Michel Franco's new drama "Memory," about two lost souls who find surprising comfort in one another. Both Jessica Chastain's Sylvia and Peter Sarsgaard's Saul are hostage to their own minds, though in vastly different ways.

Hers haunts her. His is failing rapidly. And neither are entirely trustworthy.

"Memory," expanding nationwide Friday, starts as a seemingly standard issue "damaged person" movie, introducing Chastain's Sylvia celebrating 12 years of sobriety at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting that her 12-year-old attends with her.

But there are layers to this dramatic mystery, compounded with unreliable narrators and moral grey areas. Before you know it, the film morphs from something familiar into something altogether unexpected.

Though it is not easily categorizable, "Memory" is a thoughtful journey featur-



This image released by Ketchup Entertainment shows Peter Sarsgaard, left, and Jessica Chastain in a scene from "Memory."

ing very fine performances from both Chastain and Sarsgaard, who was rewarded with the best actor prize from the Venice Film Festival last fall. While there are moments of levity to break up the anguish, it could also come with a laundry list of trigger warnings as it explores difficult subjects from sexual abuse to mental illness in pretty unsatisfactory ways. Perhaps it's a good thing that the holidays are over because this is not one to watch with the family, es-

pecially if they're harboring secrets of their own that have evolved into generational trauma.

The film binds you at first to Sylvia, a social worker and single mother who is suspicious of everything and everyone.

She always seems ready to bolt for safety and survival. She lives by a strict routine: Walking her daughter, Anna (Brooke Timber), to school, going to work at an adult day care and her AA meetings.

Home is a fortress: As soon

as she steps into her down-trodden apartment, she's triple locking her door and punching in the security code to arm the place.

Even knowing her this little, it's surprising that her younger sister Olivia (Merritt Wever) is able to convince her to tag along to a high school reunion kind of event early in the film. The decision seems even more unfathomable when you learn additional details about Sylvia's school years, but it's clear that she is uncomfortable and unhappy

at the event, which she soon leaves.

For a moment, you wonder if perhaps her fears and anxieties are warranted as she realizes that night that a man is following her home, first down the street, then onto the same subway car, then off at the same spot, right to her doorstep. It is like a nightmare as she fumbles for her keys.

You hold your breath until she's made it inside.

Hours later, the man is still there outside, looking up at her.

Is he imagined? A dream? An ex? A stranger?

The man in question is Saul, who she finds out is suffering from early onset dementia. He won't remember that he followed her home or why but he will remember her for whatever reason. His brother, Isaac (Josh Charles), asks if Sylvia would want to work for them as a companion to Saul.

And Saul and Sylvia develop a deep bond with one another that goes beyond professional caretaker boundaries. □

Associated Press

In public domain, early Mickey Mouse version will star in horror movies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The earliest iteration of Mickey Mouse is on a rampage, barely two days in the public domain.

Slashed free of Disney's copyright as of Monday, the iconic character from "Steamboat Willie" is already the focus of two horror films. On Monday, just hours after the 1928 short entered the public domain, a trailer for "Mickey's Mouse Trap" dropped on YouTube. Another yet-to-be-titled film was announced Tuesday.

"Steamboat Willie" featured early versions of both Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Directed by Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks, it was the third cartoon featuring the duo they made but the first to be released. In it, a more menacing Mickey, bear-

ing more resemblance to rat than mouse, captains a boat and makes musical instruments out of other animals.

It's perhaps fitting, then, that the first projects an-

nounced are seemingly low-budget and campy slasher movies and not unprecedented.

Winnie the Pooh sans red shirt entered the public domain in 2022; scarcely a

year later, he was notching up a heavy body count in the microbudget "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey."

In the trailer for "Mickey's Mouse Trap," directed by Jamie Bailey, what appears to be a human in a comically small Mickey mask terrorizes a group of young people at an arcade.

"A place for fun. A place for friends. A place for hunting," text flashed during the trailer reads. "The mouse is out."

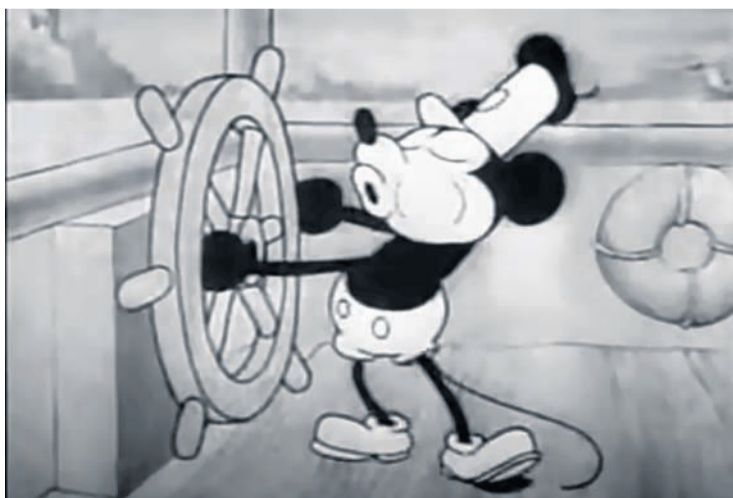
"We just wanted to have fun with it all. I mean it's Steamboat Willie's Mickey Mouse murdering people," director Jamie Bailey said in a statement cited by trade publications. "It's ridiculous. We ran with it and had fun doing it and I think it shows."

No release date has been set.

The second movie is from director Steven LaMorte, who previously directed a horror parody of "The Grinch," which is not in the public domain (the movie is thus called "The Mean One").

"A late-night boat ride turns into a desperate fight for survival in New York City when a mischievous mouse becomes a monstrous reality," is the logline for the untitled film, per a post on LaMorte's Instagram.

"Steamboat Willie has brought joy to generations, but beneath that cheerful exterior lies a potential for pure, unhinged terror," LaMorte said in a release cited by the trades. The movie has yet to begin production. □



This still image from video provided by Disney shows the character Mickey Mouse in the 1928 animated short "Steamboat Willie."

Associated Press

The 49ers have a rare quartet of 1,000-yard players. Dolphins and Lions could do the same

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

The San Francisco 49ers and their deep group of playmakers accomplished a rare feat.

They soon could have company from the Miami Dolphins and Detroit Lions.

Tight end George Kittle became the latest Niners player to eclipse 1,000 yards from scrimmage this season, joining Christian McCaffrey, Brandon Aiyuk and Deebo Samuel.

That made San Francisco the sixth team ever to have four players hit that mark in one season, joining the 2020 Carolina Panthers, the 2004 Indianapolis Colts, 1995 Atlanta Falcons, 1990 Houston Oilers and 1989 Washington. McCaffrey leads the way with 2,023 yards for the fifth-best total in franchise history. It is the second time he has eclipsed 2,000 yards from scrimmage after doing it with Carolina in 2019. He joins Erik Dickerson and Marshall Faulk as the only players to do it with two franchises.

San Francisco also has a 4,000-yard passer, with Brock Purdy setting a franchise record with 4,280 two more than Jeff Garcia's total in 2000.

Of the previous teams with four 1,000-yard players, only the Colts, Falcons and Oilers also had a 4,000-yard passer. The Dolphins can join that group if rookie De'Von Achane gains 64 yards next



San Francisco 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey (23) runs up against Washington Commanders safety Kamren Curl (31) during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

week to join teammates Tyreek Hill, Raheem Mostert and Jaylen Waddle with at least 1,000. Tua Tagovailoa already has more than 4,000 yards passing.

The Lions also have an outside shot at it but would need rookie Sam LaPorta to get 136 yards to join Amon-Ra St. Brown, Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery with at least 1,000 yards from scrimmage. Jared Goff already has hit the 4,000-yard mark in passing.

IMPRESSIVE STREAKS

The Kansas City Chiefs wrapped up their eighth straight AFC West title when they beat Cincinnati on Sunday.

That's the second-longest streak in NFL history, trailing only the 11 straight division titles won by New England from 2009-19.

Kansas City's nine straight

playoff berths are tied with Indianapolis (2002-10) and Dallas (1975-83) for the second-longest streak, behind only the 11-year run for the Patriots.

While the Chiefs have dominated the AFC West, no one has been able to do that in the NFC East. If the Cowboys win on Sunday or if the Eagles lose, it will mark the 19th straight season a team failed to repeat as division champions. Philadelphia was the last to do it in 2003-04.

Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin extended his impressive streak of never having a losing record after the Steelers beat Seattle for their ninth win of the season.

The Steelers have gone 20 straight seasons without a losing record one shy of Dallas' record set from 1965-85. Tomlin has been the coach for 17 of those seasons, trailing

only Tom Landry (21 straight seasons) and Bill Belichick (19) for the longest streaks for a coach.

ONE-SIDED RIVALRY

The New England Patriots end their season against their favorite opponent of late, aiming for a 16th straight win over the New York Jets. Only four teams have ever beaten an opponent 16 straight times in the regular season. Kansas City's 16-game streak against Denver ended earlier this season. Washington had a 16-game winning streak over Detroit from 1968-97, San Francisco beat the Rams 17 times in a row from 1990-98 and Miami had 20 straight wins against Buffalo from 1970-79.

If the Patriots lose, there will be more on the line than just the streak. It would also be the 178th loss of Belichick's career, including the playoffs, which would tie Landry for the most ever. A loss on Sunday would also tie the record of 165 regular-season losses held by Jeff Fisher and Dan Reeves.

FABULOUS FLACCO

Joe Flacco's journey from his couch to the Cleveland Browns' huddle led to one of the most prolific months ever for a quarterback.

Flacco made his debut for Cleveland on Dec. 3 after sitting out all season and threw for 1,616 yards and 13 TDs to help the Browns win four out of five games in December to clinch a playoff berth.

Flacco threw more TD passes in December than the Jets (11), Titans (12) and Steelers (12) have all season.

This marked just the fifth time in NFL history that a quarterback threw for at least 1,600 yards and 13 TDs in a calendar month, with Patrick Mahomes doing it in October 2018, Peyton Manning in November 2014 and December 2013, and Jim Kelly in September 1991.

During Cleveland's four-game winning streak, Flacco has thrown for at least 300 yards in all of those games. The only other players to do that during a four-game winning streak in a season since 2000 are Manning (twice), Mahomes, Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees and Kurt Warner.

HIGH PICK

The Chicago Bears are the recipients of the No. 1 pick in the draft for a second straight season — although this time they didn't have to endure all the losses to get it. The Carolina Panthers clinched the worst record in the NFL less than 10 months after trading their 2024 first-round pick to Chicago as part of a package to move up from No. 9 to No. 1 in last year's draft.

The most recent time a team traded the pick that turned out to be No. 1 before the season came in 1983 when Cincinnati dealt quarterback Jack Thompson to Tampa Bay. □

Bernie Williams to make New York Philharmonic debut on April 24 with Gustavo Dudamel

NEW YORK (AP) — Former New York Yankees center fielder Bernie Williams will make his New York Philharmonic debut on April 24 when future music director Gustavo Dudamel leads the orchestra's spring gala at Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall.

Common, a rapper whose actual name is Lonnie Rashid Lynn, will also make his philharmonic debut in a program with soprano Hera Hyesang Park, the orchestra said Wednesday.

The philharmonic will perform alongside high school musicians chosen in auditions.

Williams, 55, was a five-time All-Star while playing for the Yankees from 1991 to 2006 and won the 1998 American League batting title. He released a pair of guitar recordings, in 2003 and 2009.

Dudamel, 42, has been music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic since 2009, a tenure that will end after 17 seasons when he

starts in New York for the 2026-27 season. He will have a rehearsal with the students on April 22 and will lead the youth orchestra in a concert on April 26 at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. There also will be a rehearsal on the morning of April 24 open to music teachers, families of the youth orchestra and the orchestra's community partners.

The program is still being planned. □



Former baseball player Bernie Williams waves after performing the national anthem before a baseball game between the Oakland Athletics and the Minnesota Twins in Oakland, Calif., May 16, 2022.

Associated Press

Osaka's first tournament as a mom ends in a loss to 3-time winner Pliskova in Brisbane

By JOHN PYE
AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — A loss didn't bother Naomi Osaka at the Brisbane International as much as the missed opportunity for more matches ahead of the Australian Open. The four-time major winner's first tournament since becoming a mother ended in a 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 second-round loss Wednesday to three-time Brisbane International champion Karolina Pliskova. Osaka won her first match at the elite level since late 2022 on Monday in straight sets against Tamara Korpatsch. After that win, she said the birth in July of her daughter, Shai, and the changes to her mindset since becoming a mother had given her a bet-



Naomi Osaka of Japan serves in her match against Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic during the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

ter perspective on tennis. A second-round encounter featuring two former No. 1-ranked players was a step up in tempo and a better indication of how Osaka's preparations are going for the Australian Open, the year's first Grand Slam event, starting Jan. 14 in Melbourne.

"The week is definitely shorter than I wanted it to be," Osaka said. "I feel like I'm pretty good where I am right now. Even the last time I played her, I think I played better today." Osaka won the first set but Pliskova recovered and fired 16 aces and hit 50 winners, saving 10 of the 12 breakpoint chances she faced and making amends for her 11 double-faults. "I saw the stats after and my break points could have been better," Osaka said, "but I think other than that we both played really well ... so hopefully she says the same thing!"

A former finalist at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open now ranked 39th, the 31-year-old Pliskova was playing for the first time since September after a left wrist injury curtailed her 2023 season.

"A lot of things to improve, but a good start," said Pliskova, who had her left wrist and hand taped for the opening match of the day on Pat Rafter Arena.

She'll next play third-seeded Jelena Ostapenko, who beat Camila Giorgi 6-1, 6-4.

Top seed and defending Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka had a 6-3, 6-0 win over Lucia Bronzetti and will face Zhu Li, a 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7) winner over Danielle Collins, in the Round of 16. Second-seeded Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, had a 6-4, 6-1 win over Olivia Gadecki and will next play No. 13 Elise Mertens, who beat 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens 2-6, 6-1, 6-3.

On the men's side, top-seeded Holger Rune beat Alexander Shevchenko 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in the night match to advance to a quarterfinal against Australian qualifier James Duckworth. Fourth-seeded Ugo Humbert had a 6-4, 6-4 win over Alex Michelsen in a first-round match. □



Palm Beach, Aruba

Operations Hours
Slots: 10am
Table: 4pm

Come and join the FUN!
Everyday from 10am till 6pm
We have **DOUBLE** points

BINGO
Play Every Day
Bingo starts at 4:30PM

Slot Play \$10
Match Play \$15

Sign up and become a VIP Member.
ID required upon redemption!







Located at RIU Antillas. For more info call: 5257777 or Follow us on